

CORRESPONDENCE

serum of the mother is equivalent to that amount of lithium to which the fetus is exposed.

Under F2 in this table, there is the following statement: "Use three times daily dose, or if available, sustained-release tablets. Avoid large single or double daily doses."

Using three times the daily dose could be severely toxic to the mother and fetus and could result in serious complications and even death.

In an attempt to avoid large single or double daily doses one would not use three times the daily dose. Instead, the usual procedure if lithium must be used during pregnancy is to divide the usual daily dose into more frequent administration of the lithium thereby avoiding more concentrated pulses of lithium that might adversely affect the fetus. *Do not use three times the daily dose* as this could be severely toxic to the mother and the fetus. Instead, use the lowest effective dose and divide the dosage into more frequent administrations.

A list of other articles published on this subject appears below.

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The Authors Reply

TO THE EDITOR: We thank Dr. Goldfield for his correction. In proofing the typescript of our article we missed this error. F2 in Table 2 should read "Use in divided doses, preferably three times a day, or, if available, sustained-release tablets. Avoid large single or double daily doses."

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Hysteria by Any Other Name

TO THE EDITOR: On page 482 of the June issue there appeared an article by Dr. James R. Morrison entitled "Management of Briquet Syndrome (Hysteria)."

I have one objection: hysteria is not a syndrome but a well-known clinical entity. To attach the name Briquet to it because Briquet published a book on hysteria in 1859 is not justified. Moses Maimonides (1135 to 1204) described conversion hysteria as occurring long before the birth of Christ.

JULIUS BAUER, MD
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The Author Replies

TO THE EDITOR: Conversion hysteria is certainly an ancient affliction, but so is "hysteria" an ancient term—so old that it has been applied to a number of conditions. That is the point of the new term: to distinguish the collection of symptoms we now call Briquet syndrome from other, less well-defined usages.

Careful definition of this condition makes possible effective management. That was a major point of my article. Thank you for enabling me to make it again.

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